

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 7485

S E C R E T TOKYO 3402

EXDIS

DELIVER AT 9:00 AM MARCH 7

TAGS: PINT, JA, US

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED

REF: STATE 55611

1. EMBOFF RELAYED DEPARTMENTS VIEWS RE TIMING AND RELEASE OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER (PARA 1 REFTEL) TO FUJII OF FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION. FUJII SAID HE HOPED LETTER COULD BE DELIVERED TO FONOFF AROUND NOON LOCAL TIME, THEN RELEASED FOUR OR FIVE HOURS LATER (DEPENDING ON TRANSLATION TIME). SUCH TIMING WOULD RELIEVE MEDIA PRESSURE FOR INSTANT RELEASE SINCE DEADLINES FOR EVENING EDITIONS ALREADY PASSED. THOUGH GOJ PREFERRED TO HANDLE RELEASE AS "GIST", IT WOULD RESPECT OUR WISHES TO COMPLY WITH STANDARD PROCEDURE AND RELEASE WHOLE TEXT INCLUDING SALUTATION AND CLOSE.

2. EMBOFF GAVE FUJII RATIONALE SUGGESTED PARA 3, EXPLAINING THAT PRESS DISCOVERY OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN STATE/JUSTICE/ SEC MEETINGS A REAL POSSIBILITY AND THAT CATEGORICAL DENIAL WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN AND IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO SUPPORT.

3. IN RESPONSE, FUJII SAID THAT QUESTION OF EMBASSY PARTICIPATION NOW MOST SENSITIVE PART OF ENTIRE ISSUE. PRIME MINISTER DEEPLY WORRIED OVER EFFECTS OF LEAK, SHOULD IT OCCUR. KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN TALKS HAS BEEN TIGHTLY RESTRICTED

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WITHIN GOVERNMENT. BOTH FONMIN AND CABINET SECRETARY IDE HAVE

ALREADY REPEATEDLY DENIED TO PRESS AND DIET QUERIES ON SUBJECT OF JAPANESE EMBASSY PARTICIPATION.

4. PARTICIPATION ISSUE WILL BECOME CENTRAL THIS WEEK. OPPOSITION PARTIES SUSPECT CONSULTATION TOOK PLACE. IF STATEMENT MADE ALONG LINES US SUGGESTS, STREAM OF FURTHER QUESTIONS WILL ENSUE. WHO WERE THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES? HOW MANY TIMES DID THEY MEET? WHAT DID THEY SAY? ETC. ETC.

5. IN CONCLUSION, FUJII SAID HE TRUSTED THAT USG WOULD KEEP MATTER CONFIDENTIAL AS AGREED PENDING GOJ STUDY OF SUGGESTED RATIONALE. AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, AGREEMENT WAS TO KEEP JAPANESE PARTICIPATION CONFIDENTIAL PERMANENTLY, NOT "FOR THE TIME BEING". FUJII SAID THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BEST BE HANDLED IN WASHINGTON, AND IF DEPARTMENT WISHED TO PURSUE IT, IT SHOULD DO SO THROUGH EMBASSY. (HE WAS NOT CLEAR ON REASONS WHY)

6. EMBOFF, SPEAKING PRIVATELY, EXPLAINED THAT SUGGESTED US RATIONALE DESIGNED SIMPLY TO COPE WITH PRACTICAL PROBLEM. NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY HAD HAD NO CONTACT WITH US GOVERNMENT ON SUCH A VITAL ISSUE. PROBLEM WAS TO PROVIDE REALISTIC PRESS GUIDANCE THAT WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT EMBASSY HAD HAD THE KIND OF NORMAL CONTACT ONE WOULD EXPECT IT TO WHILE PROTECTING THE VERY SENSITIVE FACT OF DIRECT, ONGOING PARTICIPATION IN TALKS.

7. FUJII SAID HE UNDERSTOOD POINT AND PRIVATELY HAZARDED THAT THERE WERE THREE BASIC QUESTIONS TO WHICH JAPANESE WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER WITH FLAT NEGATIVE, AS FOLLOWS:

A) DID GOJ KNOW IN ADVANCE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN INGERSOLL STATEMENT BEFORE CONGRESS?

B) DID GOJ IN ANY WAY INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS?

C) HAS US PROPOSED A TEXT FOR CONDITIONS OR AGREEMENT?

8. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT SUGGESTED RATIONALE SEEMED SECRET

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COMPATIBLE WITH FUJII'S "THREE NOES", WITH EXCEPTION OF WORDS "AND STRICTLY AD REFERENDUM" AT END OF FINAL SENTENCE.

9. SUBSEQUENT TO THIS WRITING, FUJII CALLED EMBOFF TO REPORT THAT HE HAD MADE PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS WITHIN GOJ ON SUBJECT OF NEW RATIONALE. HE SAID THERE WAS "VERY STRONG REACTION AGAINST ANY HINT THAT US AND JAPAN HAD EVER TALKED ABOUT CONDITIONS" PRIOR TO PUBLICATION. WHILE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO

SCRUTINISE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OF RATIONALE WITH HIS INTERLOCUTORS ON PHONE, CONSENSUS WAS THAT RATIONALE MIGHT GIVE IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNMENTS HAD INDEED TALKED.

10. IN CLOSING FUJII REITERATED EXTREME SENSITIVITY AND SERIOUSNESS OF ISSUE. LEAK OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION WOULD "UPSET ALL OUR PLANS". GOJ HAS BEEN TRUSTING USG TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY ON QUESTION, AND TO STICK TO POSITION THAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF CONDITIONS. GOJ MIGHT NOT HAVE ENTERED NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN WITH HAD THERE BEEN SUSPICION THAT CONFIDENTIALITY COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED.

11. EMBOFF SAID HE WOULD CONVEY FUJII'S MESSAGE. HE SUGGESTED THAT FUJII GIVE SOME FURTHER THOUGHT TO WAYS OF DEALING WITH SUBJECT SHORT OF CATEGORICAL DENIAL. RATIONALE PROPOSED WAS ONLY A SUGGESTION. PERHAPS GOJ COULD SUGGEST SOME MORE SUITABLE WAY OF AVOIDING HAVING TO MAINTAIN THAT US AND GOJ HAD HAD NO CONTACT WHATSOEVER ON ISSUE.

12. FUJII SAID HE WOULD STUDY THE QUESTION. IN MEANTIME, HE REITERATED REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT PURSUE QUESTION THROUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY.
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